



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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SCHEDULED WINTER NATURAL GAS FILING APPROVED FOR ST. JOSEPH LIGHT & POWER

Jefferson City (November 20, 2001)---Natural gas customers of UtiliCorp United, Inc. d/b/a St. Joseph Light & Power Company will see **lower natural gas rates** under a scheduled winter season filing approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This decrease, which primarily reflects a reduction in the wholesale cost of natural gas, takes effect immediately. The winter season filing covers the period of November through March.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.6580 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will drop to \$0.4893 per Ccf, a decrease of approximately 16.9 cents per Ccf. **The effect on a typical residential heating customer for the winter season is a decrease of \$150 or 20 percent when compared to rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its supplier for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

St. Joseph Light & Power Company serves approximately 6,300 natural gas customers in the Missouri counties of Andrew, Atchison, Nodaway and Holt.

